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Lamont Marcell Jacobs (L) wins the men's 100 m final in Tokyo | AFP

TOKYO 2020

FIRST POST-BOLT OLYMPIC 100M GOLD GOES TO ITALY

Lamont Marcell Jacobs shocks the world with gold in the Blue Riband 100 metres final in 9.80 seconds

THE FINAL: A DASH OF UNFANCIED STARS

The field was filled with a raft of relatively unknown sprinters. Even Jacobs' main claim to fame was an European 60 metre indoor title earlier this year. The 26 year-old made a European record, with American Fred Kerley taking silver in 9.84 seconds in one of the most understated major championship 100 metre races of recent times. Canada's Andre de Grasse got the bronze in 9.89 seconds | P15, 16

SURPRISE: NO JAMAICANS IN THE MIX

- For the first time since the 2000 Sydney Games, there was no Jamaican in the final
- Hot favourite Trayvon Bromell, who was the season-leader coming into the Games, went out in the semis
- As for China's Su Bingtian, he set an Asian record

9.63s

USAIN BOLT'S OLYMPIC RECORD IN 2012 THAT REMAINS UNBROKEN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

● Shuttler is first Indian woman to win back-to-back Olympic medal ● The Blues face Belgium test

SINDHU'S HISTORIC DOUBLE

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN AND INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

P V SINDHU is the toast of the nation. And why not? The rigours of competing at the Olympics is immeasurable. It gnaws and growls, especially in your head. That ubiquitous word PRESSURE keeps fiddling in every cell of your brain. It's enough to scar you for a lifetime.

Winning one medal at the Games is seen as something improbable, especially in our medal-bereft country. Winning two? Well, nothing short of a miracle. But somehow in Sindhu's world, the word is a misfit.

She has made the moniker 'Big Game Hunter' her own. She may lumber her way into a World Championships or an Olympics, but once there, garbed in an aura of invincibility, Sindhu dredges her way through everything. Sindhu's record since the World Championships gold in Basel is perhaps the most unimpressive part of her career. She appeared in 15 tournaments and managed to win only 23 matches — 1.5 on an average. For such a prodigious talent, the figure doesn't fit in her resume.

It's why she kind of flew under the radar going into Tokyo. Yes, she was a big tournament monster but the pandemic had ensured that she would be coming in with almost zero match practice. Add to that the needless controversies she had to tide over in the last year or so. Other Indian athletes would have possibly wilted. But Sindhu is made of sterner stuff, she doesn't wave the white flag. Her strong mind on those strong shoulders have been companions on this most surreal of journeys.

On Sunday, she used both to traverse past the challenge of China's He Bingjiao to become just the third woman in the sport's history to win back-to-back singles medals at the Olympics. The southpaw had a better head-to-head record but Sindhu isn't one to let that affect her. Not at the Olympics anyway. She smashed, used the effective cross court smash to add to her winners count and induced errors. He was expected to trouble her but Sindhu used her height and reach to her advantage. Just before the end, the sight of He on her knees and looking at the floor wondering what hit her rammed home Sindhu's performance.

She is a generational Olympian from a country that doesn't produce generational athletes.

I had a lot of emotions going through me- should I be happy that I won bronze or sad that I lost the opportunity to play in the final?
P V Sindhu

Proactive approach pays dividends

On Saturday, Sindhu was subdued, as she let Chinese Taipei dictate the pace. But on Sunday, she dictated the proceedings. He Bingjiao wasn't allowed time to breathe. Sindhu also used her height to maximum advantage to smash winning shots

Dilpreet Singh celebrates his goal against Great Britain in the quarterfinal of the men's hockey on Sunday. India win 3-1 | AP

It's coming home! Chant begins as India eye history

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

WELL. To borrow a popular soundtrack that made the rounds three weeks ago, is it coming home? Can it really come home? On a night when PV Sindhu assumed immortality on the world stage, the men's hockey team took a giant stride towards destiny and ending 41 years of hurt.

The history is so well known it's written once every four years — eight gold, one silver and two bronze — if nothing else to remind the nation of what their hockey players were capable of. But while living in history books, sepia-toned pictures and grainy YouTube videos has a nice earthly charm to it, history is no substitute for the present. That's why the current iteration's 3-1 quarterfinal win over Great Britain is possibly their biggest win since the 1980 final.

Now's a chance for a young team under a capable manager who has been allowed time and space to create new ones.

FULL COVERAGE: P15, 16

LOOMING WAVE

Max cluster of Covid variants in 5 dists

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

THE maximum concentration of the five Covid variants — Alpha, Delta, Delta-plus, Kappa and Beta — has occurred in five districts of Karnataka, according to the data available till July 30, which was shared by the Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee.

These districts include Bengaluru Urban with 1,035 cases of variants, Vijayapura with 102, Dakshina Kannada with 69, Udupi with 41 and Hassan 36.

Experts in the State Genomic Surveillance Committee said that the reason for the prevalence could be threefold: biological, socio-economic and Covid-appropriate behaviour. In immunocompromised and comorbid patients, the virus uses the machinery of human cells and the immune system to transform itself and get stronger, thereby mutating in 'Patient zero'. P3

KARNATAKA	JULY 31	AUG 1
Fresh cases	1,987	1,875
Recoveries	1,632	1,502
Deaths	37	25

No public Ganesh Utsav in Belagavi

The public celebration of Ganesh Utsav has been prohibited in Belagavi as Maharashtra is seeing a spike in Covid cases over the last few days. DCMG Hiremath on Sunday announced that over a hundred Ganesh Utsav Mandals in Belagavi city should not put up pandals or install large idols in public places to celebrate the festival, which falls on September 10. The guidelines have come early as Ganesha Mandals start preparations from now. P2

STATE MAY SEE SECOND WAVE-LIKE SITUATION

Karnataka is very close to a third wave as the effective Covid reproductive number is at 0.85. The moment it touches 1, there will be an outbreak that could be similar or worse than the Covid second wave, warned renowned epidemiologist Dr Giridhara Babu. He also said the State should increase testing, especially in rural areas. P3

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